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MALTON



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



**MEDICAL OFFICER'S
REPORT**

FOR

1925.

THE MALTON GAZETTE LTD., PRINTERS.

MALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The Report will be a Survey Report as defined by the Ministry of Health in their Circular 269 of December 28th, 1921.

I—GENERAL STATISTICS.

The Urban District of Malton includes the two townships of Malton and Old Malton, and the small hamlet of Wykeham. The area covered by the District is 4,130 acres, which lie to the North and West of a bend in the River Derwent.

Malton itself is situated on the Southern slopes of the Eastern spur of the Howardian Hills, which here rise to a height of nearly 200 feet above sea level, bounding the old lake bed of Pickering on the South.

Just before reaching Old Malton the Limestone Ridge gives way to the Post Glacial Alluvial plain upon which the rest of the district lies.

The Population estimated to the end of June, 1925, was 4,440. The number of houses occupied was 1,141, while the number of families or separate occupiers was 1,131. At the census (1921) the population was 4,438.

The Rateable Value of the District is £25,734, and the value of the sum represented by a penny rate is £79.

II.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of Births which were registered in the area numbered 87, and of these 48 were males and 39 females, 4 males being illegitimate and 1 female.

The Birth Rate has improved considerably upon that of last year when it was very much below the average. This year it is 19·6 as compared with an average of 18·3 for the whole country, per 1,000 of the Total Population.

The number of Deaths were 59, 29 being males and 30 females. The Annual Death-rate per 1,000 of the Population was 13·3 as against 12·2 for England and Wales. It is, however, not as high as last year when it was as high as 15·4.

On the whole the balance of Births over Deaths is satisfactory.

Four Deaths occurred in Children under 1 year, and it is satisfactory to see that none of these were Illegitimate, in so far as that the Death Rate among Illegitimate Infants is usually very high. Two of these four were males and two females, and two occurred from causes which are considered unavoidable, such as Congenital Debility or Malformation, or Premature Birth. The Total Deaths, therefore, of Infants under one Year per 1,000 Births was 45·9, which compares well with an average of 75 for the whole Country.

An Analysis of the various causes of Death shows no preponderance of any particular diseases. The Notifiable Infectious Diseases were not responsible for any, while Influenza claimed only one person, Tuberculosis of the Lungs three and other Tuberculous Diseases none.

Cancer was the cause of eight deaths. There is an often-heard report that Malton has a high incidence of Cancer, but this is not borne out by the Statistics. On the whole it is somewhat below the average. Cancer, unfortunately, claims a large number of victims all the world over, and, as far as this Country at any rate is concerned, the Annual Death Rate from this disease has been steadily increasing for the last 80 years, and it is now about eight times what it was in the period 1838—1842.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is obtained from the Lady Well, a Well of ancient origin, situated near the River Derwent. The gathering ground consists of the limestone ridge of the Castle Howard Hills, composed chiefly of Limestones of the Middle and Lower Oolite interspersed with Sandstone and Oxford Clay.

The Water is hard, of good quality and plentiful in supply. From the well it is pumped up to a reservoir above the town capable of fulfilling all requirements.

At times of severe flood the well is, owing to its situation near the River, liable to pollution. During the year several examinations of the water have been made, and it was found that pollution occurred when the flood water rose to about 11 feet above summer level. This pollution is due to the action of rodents burrowing through the banks of the surrounding pool, and so letting the flood water trickle through. It is impossible to tell where this will happen until the water rises, and in order to prevent it the Council has taken steps to have built a concrete wall in the centre of the bank, and it is fully expected that this will prevent any further pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE —This takes place, both from Malton itself and from Old Malton, direct into the River Derwent. Under all ordinary circumstances this arrangement is satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION —There are still a large number of Privies in the area, but when possible these are gradually being converted into Water-closets. Tins are used and are regularly replaced weekly by clean ones, the dirty tins being washed before being replaced.

SCAVENGING —Moveable Ash-bins are gradually replacing the fixed receptacles, these also are emptied weekly and cleaned.

SCHOOLS.—The Sanitary conditions and water supply of all Schools in the district are satisfactory. No action has been necessary during the Year under review in relation to the health of the Scholars, or for preventing the spread of Infection.

HOUSING.

The General Housing conditions have been to a considerable extent relieved by the Housing Scheme on Peasey Hill. The building is now practically completed, and during the Year 16 houses have been completed. The remainder, numbering 18, are almost ready for occupation, and should be finished at an early date. The later houses differ only in detail from the earlier ones; they are of the Parlour Type with Bath-room and three Bed-rooms, and they are lighted by gas or electricity. Each has an excellent garden and they are situated in a splendid position.

OVERCROWDING —There are still a few cases of overcrowding and owing to the fact that the demand for accommodation is still somewhat in excess of the supply it is difficult to deal with. There is nowhere for the people to go to if they are turned out of their present dwellings.

III.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Three Cases of Diphtheria and one of Erysipelas were the only ones notified.

Four Cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs and five of other Tuberculous Diseases were notified.

IV —CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Apart from an epidemic of Chicken-pox in Autumn the district was free from any particular causes of illness.

V.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, &c.

A District Nurse is provided by a voluntary system of subscription, aided by grants from the Local and County Authorities for extra work carried out by the Nurse, such as School Clinics, Infant Welfare, &c. The work done has been

of great assistance to the people and is much appreciated by them. Owing to distance the Nurse is not able to work outside Malton and Old Malton. The Nurse also takes a number of Maternity Cases in conjunction with the Medical Practitioners of the town.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Friends' Meeting House in Greengate, kindly lent for the purpose by the Society. Children of all ages up to five are heartily welcomed, and their mothers will obtain advice which will be of great value to them, if carried out!

A Clinic for cases of Tuberculosis is held at Scarborough Hospital, at which cases from the district sometimes attend. Venereal Cases go to York County Hospital, if necessary.

During the Year rapid strides have been made with the New Cottage Hospital. Building commenced in July, 1925, and the Foundation Stone was laid by the Countess Fitzwilliam on 17th September, 1925, others being laid by Captain Gibson the Chairman, and by Major Behrens. Over £1000 is still required to complete the original amount asked for, but it is confidently expected that this will be forthcoming by the time it is needed. The Hospital contains Male and Female Wards of 10 beds each, a Children's Ward of 3 cots and 3 Private Wards, together with X-Ray Room, and the usual Offices and Nurses' Quarters.

Sanatorium Treatment is provided for cases of Tuberculosis by the County Authorities. There is a considerable period of waiting for admission, but on the whole the number of cases treated is satisfactory.

There is no accommodation for Infectious Diseases, nor for Small-pox, and at present we are dependent upon the generosity of other districts to take in cases for us when necessary. Fortunately this has not occurred often.

The only Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children is that provided by the Guardians. There is a separate Children's Home.

A Motor Ambulance, presented to the Town by the British Red Cross Society, serves the needs of the Town and surrounding district. It is run by voluntary drivers, but cases who can afford it are expected to pay a mileage fee sufficient to pay expenses. It is not used for Infectious Diseases.

VI—LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements are made with the Clinical Research Association, London, for the Examination of Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, various Sera and Vaccines are provided free for necessitous cases.

VII —PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a whole time Sanitary Surveyor

CAUSES OF DEATH—

Civilians only

				M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	29	30
Influenza	...	...	...	0	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	2
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	4	4
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	2	4
Heart Disease	...	...	...	6	6
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	4	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	1
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	0	1
Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	1	0
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	1	1
Suicide	1	0
Other defined diseases	6	2
Causes ill-defined or unknown	0	1
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Deaths of Infants	{	Total	...	2	2
under 1 year		Illegitimate	...	0	0
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TOTAL BIRTHS	48	39
Legitimate	44	38
Illegitimate	4	1

POPULATION ... 4,440.

L. C. WALKER, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	20
(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts.	
(I.) By the Local Authority	—
(II) By other bodies or persons	16

1—Unfit Dwelling-houses

Inspection (1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	52
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(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	—
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(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
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(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1
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2—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	—
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3—Action under Statutory powers

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925	Nil
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B Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	43
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(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	23
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(a) By Owners	23
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(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
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C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925	Nil
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Note.—Inspections under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations) 1910 are now being made, and a record of these will be included in the next Annual Report.

TABLE X.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924.

The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales — — — — —	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London — — — — —	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000 — — — — —	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London — — — — —	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0